

IN THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice or disclaimer please cancel pending claims 1-5 and add new claims 6-11 as follows:

1-5. (canceled)

6. (new) A distributed service for at least one of a point of sale or service, the distributed service comprising:

a register device functionally able to expose at least a first service so as to function as a peripheral of another device;

a peripheral device functionally able to expose at least a second service that can include said first service so as to function as a device that can include a register device;

and

a protocol converter service functionally operable to couple any service exposed by said register device to any service exposed by said peripheral device.

7. (new) The distributed service of claim 6, wherein each service exposed by said register device communicates with said protocol converter using a first protocol, and each service exposed by said peripheral device communicates with said protocol converter using a second protocol.

8. (new) The distributed service of claim 6, wherein each service exposed by said register device communicates with each service exposed by said peripheral device through a communication link that includes services supported by said protocol converter.

9. (new) The distributed service of claim 6, wherein said register device communicates with said protocol converter using at least one format protocol selected from a group consisting of RS-232, RS-485, USB, and TCP/IP.

10. (new) The distributed service of claim 6, wherein: said register device communicates with said protocol converter using a first protocol, and said peripheral device communicates with said protocol converter using a second protocol; and further comprising:

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a second peripheral device functionally operable to communicate with said register device using said first protocol without recourse to using said protocol converter.

11. (new) The distributed service of claim 6, further including: a processor communicatively coupled to said protocol converter to access accessing said peripheral device.

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